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PUBLIC USE of the NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Calendar Year Report -1973

PUBLIC USE

OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

CALENDAR YEAR REPORT - 1973

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
April 1974

". . . The basic cause of our problems is the popularity of our national parks. During the last decade, park visits have increased many-fold. They now number 200 million a year and are still increasing. As a result, some of the problems of the cities have come to the parks—pollution and litter, too many automobiles, overcrowding and the so-called "generation gap" between young people and those in authority. [Top officials in the Department] have begun creative and bold actions to deal with these problems—actions like substituting other forms of public transportation for the private automobile, permit and reservation systems to limit backcountry and campsite use to safe ecological limits, and better communication and rapport with young people as well as programs and simpler facilities for their own desires.

"Despite all of these innovations, controversy still exists over the precise definition of the mission of the national parks, over the conflicting demands of service to the public and the protection of the natural park environment. The conflict is further complicated by the expansion of the National Park Concept to include historical and cultural objectives.

"I do not believe the role of the national parks is an either or proposition—either conservation of our natural heritage or the provision of the spiritual values which enhance the quality of life. We must develop a philosophy which will help us to synthesize these objectives, without harm to either one. . ."

HON. ROGERS C. B. MORTON
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

From remarks at the rededication of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
September 19, 1972

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INTRODUCTION

There are 298 units of the National Park System, ranging from tiny historic properties to vast natural areas of over 2,000,000 acres in size. These parks are found from northern climates, with short seasons of active visitation, to the tropics, where use can occur year-round. They are found in our largest cities and in remote, sparsely populated regions.

Visitation at memorials and national shrines such as Independence National Historical Park and the Lincoln Memorial is intense over most of the year, and the use occurs on a small land base. Heavy use also occurs in certain parts of the larger parks at certain seasons, long weekends, or peak periods within a day.

Servicewide visitation to the parks is almost always upward, though individual areas may have varying patterns. This is an historical trend that appears to be inevitable as long as increases in population, larger discretionary incomes and improved mobility are operative—or until effective capacities are established and enforced for individual parks. On the other hand, an energy crisis or other national emergency can change this completely. But the parks are a diverse lot, and the purpose of this publication is to provide a clearer picture of public use at all the parks.

Reliable statistics and careful analysis of their significance are important tools for the park managers in planning for the use of the parks. Theirs is the dual task of protecting park resources and providing for their use by this and future generations. Reference to the quantitative measures of use is essential if we are to provide a quality park experience.

Widespread interest in statistics on national park use is found also among public agencies at all levels, planning organizations, universities, travel associations, and private groups and individuals. Such statistics are used as an indication of the extent and probable growth pattern of the Nation's leisure industry, now estimated to be in excess of $20 billion annually.

AREAS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

Abbreviation	Class of Area	Number of Areas Administered	Number of Areas Reporting Visits				
			Natural	Historical	Recreational	Cultural	NCP
NB	National Battlefields	7	– –	7	– –	– –	– –
NBP	National Battlefield Parks	3	– –	3	– –	– –	– –
NBS	National Battlefield Sites	2	– –	2	– –	– –	– –
NC	National Cemeteries	10	– –	10	– –	– –	– –
NHS	National Historic Sites	56	– –	39	– –	– –	– –
NHP	National Historical Parks	15	– –	14	– –	– –	– –
NL	National Lakeshores	4	– –	– –	3	– –	– –
NMem	National Memorials	22	– –	19	– –	– –	– –
NMemP	National Memorial Park	1	– –	1	– –	– –	– –
NMP	National Military Parks	11	– –	11	– –	– –	– –
NM	National Monuments	82*	36	43	– –	– –	– –
NP	National Parks	38**	37	1	– –	– –	– –

– –	National Parkways	6	– –	– –	4	– –	– –
NRA	National Recreation Areas	15	– –	– –	14***	– –	– –
NR	National River	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
NS	National Seashores	9	– –	– –	7	– –	– –
– –	National Scenic River	1	– –	– –	1	– –	– –
NSR	National Scenic Riverways	3	– –	– –	2	– –	– –
NST	National Scenic Trail	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
– –	National Scientific Reserve	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
HA	Historic Area	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
– –	International Park	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
NCP	National Capital Parks	1	– –	– –	– –	– –	1
– –	White House	1	– –	1	– –	– –	– –
– –	Parks - Other	6	1	1	2	1	– –
	TOTAL	298	74	152	33	1	1

*36 in Natural category; 46 in Historical category.

**All in Natural category except Mesa Verde, which is in Historical category.

***Data for Lake Chelan and Ross Lake NRA's are included in North Cascades NP; they are included in the 14 shown here to be currently in reporting status.

SUMMARY DATA[1]
CALENDAR YEAR 1973

	CY 1973	CY 1972	Per Cent Change
Number of Areas, National Park System[2]	298	297	+0.3
Number of areas reporting public use (as of Dec. 31)	**261**	**249**	**+4.8**
Natural category	74	71	+1.4
Historical category	152	150	+0.7
Recreational category	33	26	+15.4
Cultural category	1	1	– –
National Capital Parks	1	1	– –
Public Use Volume (in thousands):			
Visits, total	**215,580.0**	**211,621.1**	**+1.9**
Recreation visits	168,923.1	165,653.5	+2.0
Nonrecreation visits	46,656.9	45,967.6	+1.5

Overnight Stays, total	**15,349.0**	14,452.2	**+6.2**
Recreation overnight stays	15,285.6	14,391.4	+6.2
Nonrecreation overnight stays	63.5	60.8	+4.6
Visitor-Hours, total	**961,385.8**	**988,984.0**	**−2.8**
Recreation visitor-hours	937,519.7	966,039.6	−3.0
Nonrecreation visitor-hours	23,866.1	22,944.4	+4.0
Area, total:	**30,494,156 Acres (12,345,812 Hectares)**	**30,346,374 Acres (12,385,951 Hectares)**	**+0.5**
Federally-owned lands and waters	29,117,412 Acres (11,788,426 Hectares)	28,878,123 Acres (11,691,548 Hectares)	+0.8
Non-Federal, within park boundaries	1,376,744 Acres (577,386 Hectares)	1,468,251 Acres (594,433 Hectares)	−6.2
Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (ending June 30)	$162,666,000	$127,655,400	+27.4
Number of Permanent Full-time Employees	7,172	7,183	−1.6

[1]Subtotals may not equal totals, due to rounding.

[2]See footnote 5 on page 48. Numbers in each category are shown as of December 31.

VISITS, BY MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES (in thousands)

	CY 1973			CY 1972		
	No. of Areas Reporting	Recreation	Non-Recreation	No. of Areas Reporting	Recreation	Non-Recreation
Natural Category*	74	52,540.6	9,962.1	71	54,467.3	7,811.7
National Parks**	37	44,831.7	9,416.3	36	46,580.6	7,240.5
Other natural areas	37	7,708.9	545.8	35	7,886.7	571.2
Historical Category	152	52,943.3	27,219.9	150	51,901.3	29,020.7
Recreational Category*	33	52,959.2	8,559.8	26	50,040.7	8,245.4
National Parkways	4	25,986.6	7,373.5	4	23,751.2	7,144.1
Other recreational areas	29	26,972.6	1,186.3	22	26,289.6	1,101.3
Cultural Category	1	482.6	--	1	430.4	2.0
National Capital Parks***	1	9,997.4	915.1	1	8,813.8	887.7

*Data for Lake Chelan and Ross Lake NRA's are included in North Cascades NP.

**Does not include Mesa Verde NP, which is included in the Historical category (482.9 rec. and 1.0 non-rec. in CY73; 546.3 rec. and 1.6 non-rec. in CY72).

***Does not include the 23 areas listed in Notes Regarding Data Collection and Presentation.

OVERNIGHT STAYS AND VISITOR-HOURS (in thousands)*

	CY 1973	CY 1972	Per Cent Change
Total Overnight Stays (excluding inholdings)	**15,349.0**	**14,452.2**	**+6.2**
By management categories:			
Natural	10,442.0	10,365.5	+0.7
Historical	436.6	424.4	+2.9
Recreational	4,396.7	3,571.6	+23.1
Cultural	— —	— —	— —
National Capital Parks	73.7	90.7	−18.8
By type of accommodations:			
Concessioner lodgings**	3,514.3	3,381.5	+3.9
NPS-operated campsites (excluding groups)	8,685.1	8,383.0	+3.6
Organized groups' camping	497.3	487.5	+2.0
Backcountry camping	1,953.5	1,494.5	+30.7
Miscellaneous overnight stays	698.9	705.7	−1.0

Total Visitor-Hours (includes overnight and day use)	**961,385.8**	**988,984.0**	**-2.8**
By management categories:			
Natural	550,852.7	585,391.8	-5.9
Historical	71,107.3	69,979.0	+1.7
Recreational	317,527.9	280,600.9	+13.2
Cultural	1,345.1	1,446.5	-7.0
National Capital Parks	20,552.8	51,575.9	-60.2

*Subtotals may not equal totals, due to rounding of figures.

**Includes some campgrounds and trailer villages, as well as houseboat rentals at Everglades National Park.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS

The purpose of this section is to illustrate specific aspects of public use of the National Park System, in order to create a clearer picture of the diversity of use and the various factors that affect intensity of visitation.

Included in this issue are two analytical essays, and a map showing some data distributed according to States and other political entities (the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico).

PUBLIC USE PATTERNS–1973

Nineteen seventy-three was the year in which the world became aware of an "energy crisis." In the United States, it was not until July that a gasoline shortage was announced. By August it seemed to have disappeared, and public confidence in the adequacy of fuel supplies returned through October. In early November the President addressed the Nation on the severity of the situation, which was compounded by the Arab oil embargo. Since that time, energy allocation and conservation programs have occupied a major place in government affairs.

Since over 90% of the visits to the National Park System occur via the private automobile, a gasoline shortage would obviously affect the parks. In the 1960's and early seventies, a primary concern of the National Park Service was the burgeoning visitation to the parks. Programs for campground reservations and limitation of use in heavily used backcountry were initiated. The question now posed to the Service is: "Is increasing visitation still a threat to the parks, or is the prospect now one of diminishing visitation, with severe economic implications for park concessioners and the travel industry?" It is obviously too early to answer that question, but there are some indications of how travel patterns to the units of the National Park System may change under conditions of a continuing energy shortage.

In July of 1973 the Service began carefully monitoring use of 85 park areas in the conterminous 48 states. These consisted of:

- 23 national parks
- 20 other natural areas
- 27 historic areas, including Mesa Verde National Park
- 15 recreational type areas (including Blue Ridge Parkway)

Geographically, of this total one group of 23 areas is found along the east coast, from Acadia National Park in Maine to the Everglades National Park in

Florida, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. The remaining 62 are scattered throughout 16 western states, with a heavy cluster in the "four corners" area of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Monthly statistics on each area were logged to determine what patterns, if any, were emerging. The period January through June was listed as one unit, since visitation in this period was not affected by the gasoline shortage. Visitation to areas of the National Park System had been increasing at an annual rate of between 5% and 8%, so that the 4.8% increase for that period is about normal (see Figure 1).

Increases for 50 parks during the January-June period were recorded across the United States, with no clearly discernible pattern. In the seven northwestern states from the Dakotas to Washington and Oregon, there were 10 increases and 4 decreases. Thirty-five parks recorded decreases, with 17 of them in the "four corners" states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. Only 10 sample parks showed increases in these states.

The picture for July changed sharply. Only 30 sample areas showed increases over the preceding July, while 55 showed decreases. Big Bend was unchanged. Decreases and increases were generally distributed, with no clear regional patterns apparent. However, the northwestern tier of seven states noted above registered only 3 increases and 11 decreases. It is interesting to note that, of the 30 increases nationwide, 7 were in reservoir recreation areas (out of a total of 9), and only four were in national parks (out of 23).

By August fear of the gasoline shortage was abating, and park travel rose by a hair over August 1972, just a third of one percent. By August, however, a pattern was emerging. Parks in the northwestern tier of 7 states, plus northern California, Nevada (excluding Lake Mead), and Colorado (except Mesa Verde) were registering losses in 23 areas, gains in only 6. The same pattern, and same numbers, for this northwestern area held in September. Visitation for the month was about the same as September of 1972, up only 0.8%.

Except for the extreme Northwest, October was a return to normalcy in park travel patterns. In October 1973 use jumped to 11.2% over October of 1972. This is a time of year when local people and retired people, many with recreation vehicles,

FIGURE I

PUBLIC USE DATA FOR 85 SELECTED PARKS FROM JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER, COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD FOR 1972

Month	Situation	1972	1973	% Change
Jan.-June	Normal	44,324,500	46,431,200	4.8
July	Gas shortage fears	19,899,200	18,951,700	–4.8
August	Fears abating	19,020,400	19,080,400	0.3
September	Fears abating	10,886,700	10,973,000	0.8
October	Normalcy returns	8,457,600	9,398,100	11.1
November	Crisis begins	4,857,200	5,447,600	12.2
December	Travel declines	3,908,700	3,317,500	–15.1
	TOTALS	111,354,300	113,599,500	+2.0

make up a proportionately larger percentage of visitation than during the family-group dominated summer vacation months. The general pattern resembled that of the January-June period. Visitation picked up again, over the preceding year, in Montana, Wyoming, the Dakotas, and Colorado. However, visitation in Washington, Oregon, and northern California stayed lower than October 1972, except for Crater Lake, which increased significantly. This was a good-weather month generally, which probably affected use, as travel in the off-season tends to be weather-sensitive. Also, the absolute numbers of visits being smaller, fluctuations—whether due to such factors as weather conditions, fall foliage color (an important factor in the Fall at some areas), or any other causes—result in greater swings of *percentage* change.

November visitation is such a small part of the year's total that it is dangerous to make any generalizations from it. However, a significant decline might have been expected, in view of the general public knowledge of an energy crisis. To the contrary, use increased 12.2 percent over November 1972. Washington, Oregon, and northern California showed major decreases from the previous year, whereas elsewhere the pattern appeared normal.

In December the travel figures for the 85 sample parks showed a 15% drop, comparable to the 14.1% decline of the entire System's total. This can be attributed to fuel shortages—some real, some only anticipated—due to the Arab oil embargo, and perhaps other factors such as weather. Winter months' visits are always volatile, anyhow, so it is difficult to draw any conclusion from a 15% variation.

The totals for the year showed for these 85 selected parks a small increase of 2.0%, almost exactly the same as the 1.9% in the Servicewide total of 261 reporting parks. (Neither of these figures has been adjusted for comparability: by eliminating data available in 1973 for some of the 261 areas for which comparable 1972 data is not included, by adjusting for changes in counting procedures at some parks in both the 85 and the 261, and possibly other factors contributing to distortion of comparability.)

On balance we should probably say that, within the limits of statistical error, 1973 public use of

FIGURE 2

PARKS WITH DECREASES UNDER PRECEDING YEAR
FOR THREE OR MORE MONTHS, JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 1973

Type	Number	% of Type Total
National parks	11	47.8
Other natural areas	14	70.0
Historic areas	6	22.2
Recreation areas	2	13.3
TOTAL	33% of sample*	38.8%

*Entire sample of 85 parks

FIGURE 3

PARKS WITH INCREASES OVER PRECEDING YEAR
FOR THREE OR MORE MONTHS, JULY THROUGH OCTOBER 1973

Type	Number	% of Type Total
National parks	8	34.8
Other natural areas	3	15.0
Historic areas	13	48.1
Recreation areas	9	60.0
TOTAL	33% of sample*	38.8%

*Entire sample of 85 parks

the National Park System remained flat as compared with 1972. Since we would normally expect an increase of 5% or more, it can be conjectured that the energy crisis had a moderate dampening effect but did not send tourism—at least on a broad, nationwide basis—into a tailspin.

Special Studies

In an attempt to get a composite picture of visitation from July onward, two maps were prepared: one showing those parks which registered decreases in at least three months from July through October; and the other showing parks with increases for at least three months from July through October.

For those decreasing, 31 were in the western United States, or 50% of the 62 sample western areas. In the eastern United States, only 3 showed declines, or 13% of the 23 sample eastern parks. Decreases in the West were uniformly spread from Texas to North Dakota and Westward to the coast, except for New Mexico. Eight of the 12 California areas had decreases.

The 35 sample parks showing increases for 3 of the 4 months were primarily in the Southwest (13) and the eastern United States (14). Arizona had increases in 6 of the 11 sample areas, New Mexico, 4 of 4; Texas, 2 of 3; Utah, 3 of 5. The two areas to increase in Colorado were both reservoir recreation areas. Of the 10 other western states in the sample, only 4 parks had increases: Yosemite in California; Badlands in South Dakota; Scotts Bluff in Nebraska; and Lake Mead in Nevada/Arizona. No increases occurred in North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, or northern California.

The only significant area of overlap between increases and decreases was in the "four corners" country. At this time sufficient data are not available to permit a further evaluation based upon other criteria, such as type of use.

The System contains a number of parks near the southern boundaries of the country. Several of these are popular winter areas. Comparisons were made for 12 of these between November 1973 visits and November 1972, to see if any pattern was apparent. Seven areas showed decreases, and 5 showed increases.

However, the 12 combined showed a 0.9% increase over 1972, compared to an overall 12.2% increase for all 85 sample areas. Of the 5 showing increases, 3 (Fort Frederica, Fort Matanzas, and Castillo de San Marcos National Monuments) are near-urban historic areas on or near main travel routes in Georgia and Florida on the Atlantic Coast; one (Chiricahua NM) was a natural area with little visitation, so that monthly percentage changes can alter radically from year to year on a small base number; and the fifth was Lake Mead NRA, an area of persistent increase.

Five of the seven decrease areas are typical winter parks, with camping and/or other overnight accommodations and moderate winter temperatures: Big Bend NP, Texas; Death Valley NM and Joshua Tree NM in California; Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Arizona; and Everglades NP, Florida. All five registered decreases averaging 27.7%. A sixth, Amistad NRA, was a newly developing area in Texas on the Mexican border; and the seventh (Saguaro NM) was a near-urban natural area in Arizona.

In a separate sample, 19 destination parks were studied for the January through August period to see if the length of stay was increasing compared to total visitation. In 15 areas increases occurred in the average length of stay. In 10 areas, visitation decreased but overnight stays increased compared to the previous year.

Summary and Conclusions

- The gasoline shortage of July 1973 caused a definite down-turn in park visitation, and recovery of the pre-July visitation trend made progress slowly in August and September.

- Depending upon the continuing effects of the fuel shortage and the methods and amounts of fuel allocations, if any in 1974, July 1973 may be most like what may be expected in 1974. During that month many near-urban areas showed increases, as did reservoir recreation areas.

- The percent of repeat visitation might very possibly increase at more accessible areas. Recreation areas may show increased use, largely because of repeat visitation.

- The length of stay at parks with overnight facilities will perhaps increase, offsetting, in part, the impact of a reduced number of users.

- Popular near-urban and reasonably accessible areas may show significant increases.

- Remote parks will most likely show the greatest decreases, and the lesser known remote parks may have sharper drops than the more popular areas.

- Public transportation will become more important as a means of visiting the parks but may not cause a significant percentage shift compared to the private automobile, simply because so many parks are not presently served by convenient public transportation. However, charter tour groups should increase, and bus or rail passenger service to some parks may be revived.

- All the above assume no substantial effects due to the general economic situation of the country. A deep recession or worldwide inflation might significantly change people's travel plans, not entirely in a foreseeable manner (e.g., would travel to National Parks increase at the expense of trips abroad?) so the outlook above is conditioned by assumptions that 1974 conditions will not be materially different from last year.

CAMPSITE RESERVATION SYSTEM

Purpose

On May 20, 1973, the National Park Service implemented a computerized campsite reservation system as a pilot program at six national parks. The decision to initiate a campsite reservation service was prompted by the increasingly frequent occurrence of early morning saturation of campgrounds at certain of our popular parks during the peak visitation season. Although visitation to the parks has increased dramatically over the past ten years, there has not been comparable expansion in the number of campsites. In fact, at many of our parks we have had to decrease the number of campsites available in order to avoid excessive resource deterioration. Consequently, queuing, road congestion, and large numbers of dissatisfied campers unable to obtain a campsite after a long day's journey became significant campground management problems.

A campsite reservation service was considered a potentially useful management tool for partially alleviating the problems.

The main objective of the campsite reservation service was to provide a means whereby all potential users would have an equal opportunity to camp in a park instead of penalizing those who lived far away or who could not otherwise plan their arrival such that they could effectively compete for the limited number of sites available. A secondary objective was to improve campground management by eliminating waiting lines and controlling campground use.

Management

The parks selected for the pilot study were Acadia, Everglades, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks, all of which had consistently experienced excess demand for campsites during their respective camping seasons.

Approximately one-half of the total available campsites in the test parks were placed in the reservation inventory. Service was provided by American Express Reservations, Inc. under a contractual agreement. Advance reservations could be made by telephone, mail or direct sales at approximately 500 establishments nationwide, as well as in the parks themselves. A reservation service charge of $1.50 was collected for each confirmed reservation. Both the American Express service charge and the National Park Service campground user fees were paid in advance when the reservation was made.

Unfortunately, new legislation resulted in the unexpected discontinuance of campground user fees effective August 1, 1973, and thus created many unanticipated problems which complicated the evaluation procedures. In addition to the problem of refunds, the parks experienced an increase in the number of no-shows because the discontinuance of fee collection on a per night basis for campsite use meant a forfeiture of only the small service charge. Furthermore, the initial effects of the energy crisis, felt by motorists last July, may have affected the pilot program results.

Evaluation

An in-depth evaluation of the program at five of the test parks (Everglades NP was excluded because its peak season is in winter) was conducted on a continuing basis and a report was issued in the Fall of 1973. The evaluation consisted of a user opinion and profile survey, an analysis of the costs associated with the program, a review of the management techniques and problems, an appraisal of contractor performance, and conclusions and recommendations regarding the continuation of the campsite reservation service.

Use Volume and User Opinion

The pilot program was well received by the users. Through September of 1973, a total of 49,687 reservations were made at the five test parks for a total of 166,617 site nights, which was 57.5% of total reservation capacity. Approximately 85% of reservation users surveyed preferred the reservation system, whereas 9% preferred a first-come first-served system, and only 6% had no opinion. Nearly 75% of the users surveyed recommended that the

National Park Service expand the service to additional areas, 20% recommended limiting service to the six pilot parks, and only 5% felt the reservation service ought to be discontinued.

Judgments based on the enthusiasm of these respondents should be tempered, however, by the realization that many campers who were not happy about having a reservation system may have "selected themselves out" of the evaluation by never having availed themselves of reservations. See also the footnote to the table on page 27 summarizing data for this analytical article.

User Complaints and Problems

Complaints regarding the management of the reservation service were varied. Many of the problems were unavoidable, and unfortunately could not be controlled or totally alleviated by the park managers charged with the responsibility of coping with user complaints. As previously stated, many problems arose in connection with the discontinuance of the campsite fee in the middle of the peak camping season. Delays leading to a short preparation lead time, less than one month following the award of contract, and insufficient public notification and information led to additional problems.

Slightly more than 20% of the reservation users reported difficulties in booking their reservations. Problems included long waits for service, expensive long distance telephone calls, improper or insufficient information fed into the computerized system which resulted in incorrect site assignments, untrained reservation service employees, lack of information regarding layout of park, and insufficient publicity. No figures are available as to how many persons would have liked to use the system but failed to consummate a reservation due to frustration in trying to get a satisfactory one. And, of course, there is no way to gauge what additional response would have been engendered if more of the public had been aware of the reservation system's existence.

Nearly 25% of the users surveyed indicated encountering problems upon arrival at the park. Most of these complaints were expressions of dissatisfaction with assignment (i.e., users preferred selecting their own sites rather than having the park preassign sites).

national park system
calendar year 1973 visitation by state

Areas indicated are those authorized as of December 31, 1973.

Visitation is for areas established, operating, and reporting as of December 31, 1973.

Several parks embrace lands in two or more states. State "Area" figures reflect this fact. "Visits" data for multi-State areas are allocated to states by visitors' point of entry.

Map excludes the Appalachian Trail and 13 non-Federally owned areas.

Regional boundaries and regional offices (★) reflect the reorganization of NPS Regions effective November 30, 1973.

18 Areas
11,435,000 Visits
WESTERN
ARIZONA
24 Areas
5,824,300 Visits
12 Areas
5,259,800 Visits
NEW MEXICO
★Santa Fe
11 Areas
2,015,600 Visits
1 Area
20,100 Visits
OKLAHOMA
2 Areas
4,508,500 Visits
SOUTHWEST
TEXAS
9 Areas
4,639,300 Visits
4,751,900 Visits
ARKANSAS
5 Areas
2,762,400 Visits
LOUISIANA
1 Area
209,900 Visits
6 Areas
12,441,700
Visits
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA
3 Areas
1,434,400 Visits
★Atlanta
GEORGIA
7 Areas
18,335,800 Visits
FLORIDA
8 Areas
3,399,400
Visits
KENTUCKY
3 Areas
2,902,500 Visits
TENNESSEE
11 Areas
13,606,100 Visits
SOUTHEAST
NORTH CAROLINA
9 Areas
15,888,600 Visits
SOUTH
CAROLINA
3 Areas
622,800 Visits
Washington, D.C.
13 Areas
13,047,500 Visits
NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARKS
Administers all areas in the District
of Columbia as well as several areas
which lie totally or partially in
Maryland (9 areas), Virginia (5 areas),
and West Virginia (1 area)
PACIFIC NW
ALASKA
4 Areas
453,400 Visits
WESTERN
4 Areas
2,025,600 Visits
HAWAII
SOUTHEAST
PUERTO RICO
1 Area
1,277,900 Visits
VIRGIN ISLANDS
4 Areas
360,700 Visits

As expected, each park experienced unique problems. From the park managers' point of view, the larger the proportion of sites reserved per night in advance, the fewer the problems. Acadia and Yosemite National Parks each experienced a high proportion of sites sold each night thus leaving relatively few sites to apportion on a first-come basis. Grand Canyon and Grand Teton National Parks were both plagued with a high volume of on-site reservations. Yellowstone National Park, which did not make provisions for on-site reservations after a camping party arrived at the park, nevertheless had similar problems resulting from relatively low advance sales. The latter three areas never reached the optimum level of advance sales and, consequently, were faced with the daily problem of allocating all unsold campsites. Each park evolved its own unique management principles in coping with the problems. Although the differences in reservation service policies did cause some confusion for campers who visited more than one of the test parks, the dissimilarities allowed an examination and evaluation of the effectiveness of a variety of management practices.

Operating Cost Increase

Increases in operating costs per site-night which were attributable to the initiation of the reservation service varied widely among parks. Where previously established management practices and operating procedures were campatible with the reservation system—at Acadia, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite—the increased operating costs associated with implementation of the reservation service were relatively modest. At Yellowstone and Grand Teton, however, significant changes in campground management procedures were required which caused relatively large operating cost increases. The latter two areas, on the other hand, had in previous years operated their campgrounds under an honor system of fee collection which had resulted in lower revenues due to a lower rate of fee collection. The net change in operating costs for Yellowstone and Grand Teton, when one takes into account the increased revenue resulting from a higher rate of fee collection, is more nearly comparable to the increased operating costs experienced at the other test parks.

After adjusting Yellowstone and Grand Teton operating costs based on the estimated increased effectiveness in fee collection, the average operating cost increase for all 5 test parks was found to

CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SYSTEM; MAY-SEPTEMBER, 1973

Park	Total No. Campsites in Park	Sites on First-come First-served	Maximum Sites on Reservation System[1]	Percent of Total Sites Available for Reservation	Total Site-nights Reserved	Site-nights Reserved as % of Site-nights Available for Reservation	% of Users who Preferred Reservation System	Adjusted Increased Operating Costs per Site-night
Acadia	509	243	266	52%	20,540	94.1%	81.7%	$0.17
Grand Canyon	465	45	420	90	16,707	34.7	79.4	0.29
Grand Teton	967	333	634	66	30,451	58.5	86.6[2]	0.30
Yellowstone	2,451	1,794	657	27	21,316	45.4	89.3[2]	0.31
Yosemite	2,314	1,153	1,161	50	77,603	64.1	85.8	0.29
TOTAL	6,706	3,568	3,138	47%	166,617	57.5%	85.1%	$0.29 (Avg.)

[1]The length of season for individual campgrounds varied.

[2]Does not include users who booked their reservations through Grand Teton Terminal. Those who made a reservation on-site or at a NPS Terminal were significantly less satisfied with the service. Consequently, preferences are overstated for Grand Teton and Yellowstone.

be approximately $.29 per site-night. Additional start-up capital outlays were also necessary at Grand Teton and Yellowstone due to the increased intensity of campground management.

Other Benefits

Some reported benefits of the reservation service, in addition to the convenience to the user, included the elimination of waiting lines at Acadia, decreased incidences of theft and disorderly conduct at Grand Teton, and a reduced number of claim-jumping problems at Yellowstone.

Conclusion

On the whole, despite increased operating costs and workload, park managers were in favor of the reservation system, though modifications in system management were suggested. Reservation users were also satisfied with the system. The non-users' attitudes were not surveyed; however, Acadia summarized the general acceptance by the public as follows:

> "There were both favorable and unfavorable comments from the park visitor. This can best be summed up by saying that *those with reservations were happy with the system and those without reservations were unhappy with it*."

Park managers were unanimous in their agreement with this observation.

Data reflecting the number of sites available for reservation, use of the reservation system, public acceptance, and increased operating costs are displayed in the table on page 27.

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
TOTAL	**165,653.5**	**45,967.6**	**211,621.1**	**168,923.1**	**46,656.9**	**215,580.0**	**14,452.2**	**15,349.0**
Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHS, Kentucky	557.4	–	557.4	522.8	–	522.8	–	–
Acadia NP, Maine	2,285.9	359.5	2,645.4	2,394.0	382.7	2,776.6	224.5	233.5
Adams NHS, Massachusetts	18.1	5.6	23.6	16.1	9.7	25.7	–	–
Agate Fossil Beds NM, Nebraska	10.8	0.1	10.9	8.1	0.1	8.2	–	–
Alibates Flint Quarries NM, Texas	2.8	–	2.8	1.7	–	1.7	–	–
Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS, Penna.	26.0	0.4	26.3	45.7	0.5	46.2	0.1	0.1
Amistad NRA, Texas	960.1	9.7	969.7	960.9	22.0	982.9	72.9	67.9
Andersonville NHS, Georgia	134.0	–	134.0	168.2	–	168.2	–	–
Andrew Johnson NHS, Tennessee	63.9	–	63.9	55.2	–	55.2	–	–
Antietam NBS, Maryland	433.6	–	433.6	418.4	–	418.4	2.9	1.4
Antietam NC, Maryland	42.1	0.3	42.4	39.8	–	39.8	–	–
Apostle Islands NL, Wisconsin[1]	–	–	–	12.2	3.2	15.3	–	–

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Appomattox Court House NHP, Virginia	260.4	–	260.4	265.0	–	265.0	–	–
Arbuckle NRA, Oklahoma	329.0	199.6	528.6	358.7	165.2	523.9	79.0	69.1
Arches NP, Utah	225.1	0.4	225.5	274.9	1.1	276.0	32.2	27.8
Arkansas Post NMem, Arkansas[3]	63.9	2.0	65.9	50.8	–	50.8	–	–
Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Meml., Va.[6]	542.7	–	542.7	589.6	–	589.6	–	–
Assateague Island NS, Maryland-Virginia	1,695.9	2.7	1,698.6	2,020.0	2.4	2,022.4	84.1	86.8
Aztec Ruins NM, New Mexico	79.4	–	79.4	65.4	–	65.4	–	–
Badlands NM, South Dakota	1,274.6	13.5	1,288.1	1,387.9	12.0	1,399.9	48.0	44.7
Bandelier NM, New Mexico	213.0	0.8	213.9	171.1	0.8	171.9	26.2	29.3
Battleground NC, D.C.	2.7	–	2.7	2.3	–	2.3	–	–
Bent's Old Fort NHS, Colorado	25.7	–	25.7	21.8	–	21.8	–	–
Big Bend NP, Texas	240.9	49.3	290.2	283.3	58.0	341.3	215.3	215.1

Big Hole NB, Montana	45.9	–	45.9	35.1	–	35.1	–	–
Bighorn Canyon NRA, Wyoming-Montana	210.6	9.7	220.3	220.5	32.8	253.3	14.5	18.3
Biscayne NM, Florida[3]	78.1	–	78.1	243.1	–	243.1	5.8	20.0
Black Canyon of the Gunnison NM, Colorado	273.3	–	273.3	234.8	–	234.8	26.1	23.8
Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia-North Carolina	11,018.3	2,711.5	13,729.8[7]	11,423.9	2,680.0	14,103.9	303.2	306.5
Booker T. Washington NM, Virginia	31.7	0.3	32.0	35.6	0.3	35.8	–	–
Brices Cross Roads NBS, Mississippi	2.0	–	2.0	2.5	–	2.5	–	–
Bryce Canyon NP, Utah	424.8	1.3	426.2	429.7	1.3	431.0	119.4	123.8
Buck Island Reef NM, Virgin Islands	61.1	–	61.1	41.9	–	41.9	1.4	1.3
Buffalo NR, Arkansas[1]	–	–	–	13.2	–	13.2	–	2.5
Cabrillo NM, California	1,368.3	53.8	1,422.1	1,253.1	109.4	1,362.5	–	–
Canyon De Chelly NM, Arizona	254.1	254.1	508.2	246.1	319.8	565.9	49.8	46.1
Canyonlands NP, Utah	60.6	0.1	60.8	62.5	0.1	62.6	29.6	33.0
Cape Cod NS, Massachusetts	4,943.9	28.4	4,972.3	4,712.0	29.9	4,742.0	26.5	23.1
Cape Hatteras NS, North Carolina	1,577.4	206.3	1,783.7	1,502.4	208.7	1,711.1	299.6	327.3
Capitol Reef NP, Utah	251.2	20.9	272.0	288.8	22.4	311.2	26.6	28.7

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Capulin Mountain NM, New Mexico	54.2	0.1	54.3	49.5	0.4	49.9	–	0.1
Carlsbad Caverns NP, New Mexico	856.1	–	856.1	840.1	–	840.1	–	–
Casa Grande Ruins NM, Arizona	117.5	–	117.5	135.1	–	135.1	–	–
Castillo De San Marcos NM, Florida	718.1	–	718.1	699.4	–	699.4	–	–
Castle Clinton NM, New York[4]	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Catoctin Mountain Park, Maryland	270.5	133.3	403.9	288.6	132.9	421.5	56.6	65.3
Cedar Breaks NM, Utah	225.7	40.3	266.0	180.0	21.3	201.3	3.0	5.5
Chaco Canyon NM, New Mexico	32.9	21.6	54.5	25.3	32.6	57.9	9.8[7]	8.0
Chalmette NHP, Louisiana	354.4	9.6	364.0	200.3	9.6	209.9	–	–
Chamizal NMem, Texas[1]	–	–	–	17.0	–	17.0	–	–
Channel Islands NM, California	31.9	9.7	41.6	44.7	8.4	53.1	8.1	8.4
Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP, Ga.-Tenn.	769.2	13,309.5	14,078.7	847.9	13,731.9	14,579.8	3.0	3.7

Chiricahua NM, Arizona	67.9	–	67.9	67.7	*	67.7	8.1	8.7
Christiansted NHS, Virgin Islands	30.2	–	30.2	25.3	–	25.3	–	–
City of Refuge NHP, Hawaii	351.4	–	351.4	391.7	–	391.7	0.3	0.4
Colonial NHP, Virginia	5,970.5	2,558.8	8,529.3	6,621.6	2,837.8	9,459.5	–	–
Colorado NM, Colorado	459.4	137.7	597.1	432.0	120.9	552.9	19.6	20.4
Coronado NMem, Arizona	58.1	3.1	61.2	47.7	1.5	49.2	*	*
Coulee Dam NRA, Washington	447.7	2.7	450.3	428.0	3.3	431.3	83.1	72.5
Cowpens NB, South Carolina[5]	41.5	–	41.5	33.9	–	33.9	–	–
Crater Lake NP, Oregon	566.7	27.7	594.3	505.3	34.3	539.5	81.2	92.0
Craters of the Moon NM, Idaho	205.9	–	205.9	190.9	–	190.9	18.7	17.8
Cumberland Gap NHP, Ky.-Tenn.-Va.	495.8	0.5	496.2	450.5	1.6	452.1	35.7	33.4
Curecanti NRA, Colorado	731.9	–	731.9	715.9	–	715.9	98.1	96.6
Custer Battlefield NM, Montana	387.7	–	387.7	312.1	–	312.1	–	–
De Soto NMem, Florida	139.2	–	139.2	143.6	–	143.6	–	–
Death Valley NM, California-Nevada	294.0	274.3	568.3	315.4	291.1	606.5	255.2	257.9
Delaware Water Gap NRA, Penna.-N.J.[3]	826.0	–	826.0	505.4	–	505.4	4.7	5.2

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Devils Postpile NM, California	86.7	–	86.7	83.5	–	83.5	5.5	4.1
Devils Tower NM, Wyoming	150.3	0.5	150.8	152.5	0.7	153.2	15.5	13.6
Dinosaur NM, Utah-Colorado	489.0	7.1	496.1	405.3	7.5	412.7	72.7	66.1
Edison NHS, New Jersey	57.8	–	57.8	58.7	–	58.7	–	–
Effigy Mounds NM, Iowa	79.1	0.5	79.5	76.4	0.5	76.9	–	–
El Morro NM, New Mexico	31.6	2.8	34.4	28.2	2.5	30.7	2.9	3.2
Everglades NP, Florida[3]	1,534.3	239.0	1,773.3	1,044.0	246.6	1,290.7	166.6	227.6
Federal Hall NMem, New York	44.5	1.2	45.7	80.1	2.9	83.0	–	–
Fire Island NS, New York[3]	492.6	86.1	578.7	460.9	108.5	569.4	46.5	46.9
Florissant Fossil Beds NM, Colorado[1]	–	–	–	20.1	0.8	20.9	–	–
Ford's Theatre NHS, D.C.	789.8	–	789.8	602.4	3.9	606.3	–	–
Fort Bowie NHS, Arizona	3.7	–	3.7	3.4	–	3.4	–	–

Fort Caroline NMem, Florida	84.0	–	84.0	77.2	–	77.2	–	–
Fort Clatsop NMem, Oregon	109.9	–	109.9	109.1	–	109.1	–	–
Fort Davis NHS, Texas	79.4	0.4	79.8	56.2	0.1	56.3	–	–
Fort Donelson NC, Tennessee	13.1	–	13.1	15.7	–	15.7	–	–
Fort Donelson NMP, Tennessee	366.7	872.4	1,239.1	337.9	878.3	1,216.2	0.6	0.1
Fort Frederica NM, Georgia	190.0	0.5	190.6	214.6	0.5	215.2	0.1	0.1
Fort Jefferson NM, Florida	5.1	10.6	15.7	6.1	16.9	22.9	19.9	28.0
Fort Laramie NHS, Wyoming	157.7	0.3	158.0	97.1	0.3	97.4	–	–
Fort Larned NHS, Kansas	31.7	–	31.7	20.1	–	20.1	–	–
Fort Matanzas NM, Florida	217.6	–	217.6	276.1	–	276.1	–	–
Fort McHenry NM, Maryland	504.1	0.7	504.8	506.1	0.7	506.8	–	–
Fort Necessity NB, Pennsylvania	276.4	–	276.4	212.2	–	212.2	6.7	4.8
Fort Point NHS, California	512.1	–	512.1	606.2	–	606.2	0.1	0.4
Fort Pulaski NM, Georgia	284.8	4.8	289.6	270.9	4.8	275.7	–	–
Fort Raleigh NHS, North Carolina	323.0	0.2	323.2	305.3	0.2	305.5	–	–
Fort Smith NHS, Arkansas	75.3	–	75.3	84.2	–	84.2	–	–

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Fort Stanwix NM, New York	7.7	–	7.7	8.8	–	8.8	–	–
Fort Sumter NM, South Carolina	170.9	–	170.9	169.8	–	169.8	–	–
Fort Union NM, New Mexico	17.5	0.1	17.5	12.8	–	12.8	–	–
Fort Union Trading Post NHS, N.Dakota-Mont.[1]	–	–	–	2.8	–	2.8	–	–
Fort Vancouver NHS, Washington[3]	222.2	23.7	245.9	113.2	25.5	138.7	–	–
Fossil Butte NM, Wyoming[1]	–	–	–	1.0	–	1.0	–	–
Frederick Douglass Home NMem, D.C.[6]	85.1	–	85.1	173.6	–	173.6	–	–
Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania NMP, Va.	1,053.5	46.3	1,099.8	986.3	42.2	1,028.6	–	–
Fredericksburg NC, Virginia	34.0	–	34.0	31.3	–	31.3	–	–
General Grant NMem, New York	74.5	0.2	74.7	81.9	0.2	82.1	–	–
George Rogers Clark NHP, Indiana	71.4	0.2	71.6	77.1	1.1	78.2	–	–
George Washington Birthplace NM, Va.	137.9	2.6	140.5	202.3	2.6	204.8	–	–

George Washington Carver NM, Missouri	44.0	–	44.0	40.1	–	40.1	–	–
George Washington Memorial Parkway, Va.-Md.	3,605.3	–	3,605.3	3,547.8	–	3,547.8	–	2.3
Gettysburg NC, Pennsylvania	2,609.1	–	2,609.1	2,622.3	–	2,622.3	–	–
Gettysburg NMP, Pennsylvania	1,596.7	85.6	1,682.3	1,409.4	80.0	1,489.4	7.2	7.0
Gila Cliff Dwellings NM, New Mexico	39.1	–	39.1	37.2	–	37.2	–	–
Glacier Bay NM, Alaska	18.3	6.4	24.7	24.5	11.5	36.0	17.1	18.6
Glacier NP, Montana	1,391.3	0.9	1,392.2	1,397.8	1.1	1,399.0	357.5	368.7
Glen Canyon NRA, Arizona-Utah	962.7	8.2	970.9	1,199.2	9.9	1,209.1	632.8	678.5
Golden Gate NRA, California[1]	–	–	–	42.6	–	42.6	–	–
Golden Spike NHS, Utah	80.8	34.9	115.6	53.9	30.5	84.3	–	–
Gran Quivira NM, New Mexico	36.9	0.1	37.0	36.2	0.1	36.3	0.1	0.1
Grand Canyon NM, Arizona	13.1	–	13.1	14.7	–	14.7	11.8	13.5
Grand Canyon NP, Arizona	2,500.8	197.5	2,698.3	1,895.0	169.3	2,064.3	895.2	801.0
Grand Portage NM, Minnesota	62.0	–	62.0	79.4	–	79.4	0.6	0.5
Grand Teton NP, Wyoming	2,490.3	512.0	3,002.2	2,228.6	854.7	3,083.3	618.6	559.6
Great Sand Dunes NM, Colorado	217.2	0.8	218.0	192.3	0.7	193.0	53.2	51.4

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Great Smoky Mountains NP, N.C.-Tenn.[3]	8,034.8	5.8	8,040.6	7,586.3	2,187.8	9,774.1	626.1	537.9
Guadalupe Mountains NP, Texas	39.1	0.1	39.2	45.1	0.8	45.9	4.5	8.1
Guilford Courthouse NMP, North Carolina	650.0	417.5	1,067.5	698.9	448.1	1,147.1	–	–
Gulf Islands NS, Florida-Mississippi[1]	–	–	–	930.7	25.7	956.4	–	119.7
Haleakala NP, Hawaii	271.3	34.2	305.5	360.6	12.7	373.4	13.2	17.9
Hamilton Grange NMem, New York	4.0	0.2	4.2	5.0	0.2	5.3	–	–
Hampton NHS, Maryland	48.2	0.5	48.7	51.0	0.5	51.5	–	–
Harpers Ferry NHP, W.Va.-Md.	867.6	242.7	1,110.3	935.7	272.0	1,207.8	–	–
Hawaii Volcanoes NP, Hawaii	1,365.1	24.0	1,389.1	1,236.5	24.0	1,260.5	93.5	93.6
Herbert Hoover NHS, Iowa	377.4	18.0	395.4	394.9	18.0	412.9	–	–
Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS, New York	276.8	–	276.8	303.9	–	303.9	–	–
Homestead NM, Nebraska	19.9	–	19.9	20.7	–	20.7	–	–

Hopewell Village NHS, Pennsylvania	157.5	–	157.5	163.4	1.0	164.4	–	–
Horseshoe Bend NMP, Alabama	59.0	328.6	387.7	80.8	308.3	389.2	–	–
Hot Springs NP, Arkansas	1,974.0	764.2	2,738.3	1,768.3	734.8	2,503.2	23.6	29.4
Hovenweep NM, Utah-Colorado	12.0	0.1	12.1	12.0	*	12.0	2.0	2.3
Hubbell Trading Post NHS, Arizona[3]	65.2	6.5	71.7	28.9	43.1	72.1	–	–
Independence NHP, Pennsylvania	1,650.4	902.9	2,553.3	1,214.1	905.9	2,120.0	–	–
Indiana Dunes NL, Indiana[1]	–	–	–	50.3	–	50.3	–	–
Isle Royale NP, Michigan	16.1	–	16.1	15.7	–	15.7	67.7	66.7
Jefferson Memorial, District of Columbia[6]	1,314.2	–	1,314.2	1,319.4	–	1,319.4	–	–
Jefferson Natl. Expansion Memorial NHS, Mo.	2,496.0	117.5	2,613.4	3,056.6	116.8	3,173.4	–	–
Jewel Cave NM, South Dakota	79.6	0.1	79.7	80.5	0.1	80.6	–	–
John D. Rockefeller Jr. Meml. Parkway, Wyo.[1]	262.4	–	262.4	1,627.9	–	1,627.9	1.5	76.0
John Fitzgerald Kennedy NHS, Mass.	31.2	–	31.2	33.1	–	33.1	–	–
John Muir NHS, California	24.6	1.5	26.1	22.1	1.8	23.9	–	0.1
Johnstown Flood NMem, Pennsylvania	45.9	0.1	46.0	56.1	0.4	56.5	–	–
Joshua Tree NM, California	602.8	2.7	605.5	589.6	3.4	592.9	174.5	151.0

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Katmai NM, Alaska	11.9	0.7	12.7	8.4	0.7	9.1	3.1	2.5
Kennesaw Mountain NBP, Georgia	527.4	5,758.8	6,286.2	589.7	5,758.8	6,348.5	1.2	0.2
Kings Canyon NP, California	1,051.8	6.3	1,058.0	899.3	7.5	906.8	262.4	271.0
Kings Mountain NMP, South Carolina	230.9	230.9	461.9	209.6	209.6	419.1	–	–
Lake Mead NRA, Arizona-Nevada	4,717.5	171.1	4,888.6	5,340.6	193.7	5,534.3	998.7	1,544.5
Lake Meredith NRA, Texas[6]	1,494.2	–	1,494.2	1,677.7	–	1,677.7	128.9	51.7
Lassen Volcanic NP, California	504.6	1.2	505.9	496.2	0.4	496.6	153.3	169.2
Lava Beds NM, California	108.5	45.4	153.8	85.9	36.0	121.9	11.9	9.0
Lehman Caves NM, Nevada	46.9	0.6	47.5	38.5	0.6	39.1	–	–
Lincoln Boyhood NMem, Indiana	163.9	–	163.9	119.2	*	119.2	–	–
Lincoln Home NHS, Illinois[1]	76.6	–	76.6	659.7	–	659.7	–	–
Lincoln Memorial, District of Columbia	1,989.1	–	1,989.1	2,422.5	–	2,422.5	–	–

Lyndon B. Johnson NHS, Texas	316.6	–	316.6	579.2	–	579.2	–	–
Mammoth Cave NP, Kentucky	1,699.8	173.1	1,872.9	1,754.5	173.1	1,927.5	166.7	186.1
Manassas NBP, Virginia	725.9	–	725.9	717.2	–	717.2	–	–
Marble Canyon NM, Arizona	11.1	–	11.1	12.7	–	12.7	11.1	12.7
Mesa Verde NP, Colorado	546.3	1.6	547.9	482.9	1.0	483.8	188.3	199.8
Minute Man NHP, Massachusetts	586.7	–	586.7	635.7	–	635.7	–	–
Montezuma Castle NM, Arizona	402.7	1.4	404.0	361.9	1.4	363.2	–	–
Moores Creek NMP, North Carolina	42.2	–	42.2	37.6	–	37.6	–	–
Morristown NHP, New Jersey	320.9	106.9	427.8	351.2	93.2	444.5	–	–
Mound City Group NM, Ohio	84.2	0.4	84.6	85.9	0.4	86.3	–	–
Mount McKinley NP, Alaska	88.6	217.4	306.0	137.3	222.8	360.1	91.0	120.2
Mount Rainier NP, Washington	1,275.6	406.8	1,682.4	1,065.4	462.8	1,528.2	141.2	205.1
Mount Rushmore NMem, South Dakota	1,880.9	30.7	1,911.6	1,949.3	34.2	1,983.5	–	–
Muir Woods NM, California	805.6	7.7	813.3	792.8	5.6	798.4	–	–
Natchez Trace Parkway, Miss.-Tenn.-Ala.	8,865.2	4,432.6	13,297.8	9,387.0	4,693.5	14,080.5	14.3	12.9
National Capital Parks, D.C.-Md.-Va.	8,813.7	887.7	9,701.5	9,997.4	915.1	10,912.5	90.7	73.7

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Natural Bridges NM, Utah	57.8	0.7	58.5	42.2	0.5	42.7	7.7	7.2
Navajo NM, Arizona	42.0	77.1	119.1	37.4	81.3	118.7	10.9	12.7
Nez Perce NHP, Idaho	216.6	8.4	225.0	140.1	14.4	154.5	–	–
North Cascades NP, Washington[2]	546.3	6.0	552.3	865.6	6.8	872.4	101.9	138.0
Ocmulgee NM, Georgia	96.3	–	96.3	116.3	–	116.3	–	–
Olympic NP, Washington	2,464.6	567.0	3,031.7	2,384.8	432.2	2,817.0	553.0	566.4
Oregon Caves NM, Oregon	197.8	1.6	199.4	166.4	1.1	167.5	7.2	5.8
Organ Pipe Cactus NM, Arizona	84.6	2.0	86.6	87.3	2.0	89.4	38.8	65.1
Ozark NSR, Missouri[3]	3,081.3	208.4	3,289.7	1,300.4	204.2	1,504.6	183.9	237.2
Padre Island NS, Texas	877.6	6.3	883.8	930.9	6.5	937.4	119.0	132.7
Pea Ridge NMP, Arkansas	184.5	–	184.5	111.0	–	111.0	–	–
Pecos NM, New Mexico	60.3	–	60.3	50.1	–	50.1	–	–

Perry's Victory & Intl. Peace Memorial, Ohio[5]	93.2	–	93.2	88.9	–	88.9	–	–
Petersburg NB, Virginia[3]	241.7	2,723.2	2,964.9	432.1	149.5	581.5	0.6	–
Petrified Forest NP, Arizona	1,223.5	5.5	1,229.0	1,065.1	6.9	1,072.0	–	0.2
Pictured Rocks NL, Michigan[1]	–	–	–	287.5	9.1	296.5	–	4.4
Pinnacles NM, California	168.9	–	168.9	155.5	–	155.5	46.2	47.7
Pipe Spring NM, Arizona	33.1	0.4	33.5	23.8	0.3	24.1	–	–
Pipestone NM, Minnesota	169.7	–	169.7	143.6	–	143.6	–	–
Piscataway Park, Maryland	37.0	–	37.0	45.2	–	45.2	0.2	0.2
Platt NP, Oklahoma	1,704.2	2,552.9	4,257.1	1,694.1	2,290.5	3,984.6	83.7	80.5
Point Reyes NS, California	1,123.8	25.8	1,149.6	1,231.5	25.8	1,257.3	29.2	28.8
Poplar Grove NC, Virginia[3]	8.0	–	8.0	7.1	–	7.1	–	–
Prince William Forest Park, Virginia	459.0	0.5	459.5	461.0	0.5	461.4	141.1	132.6
Rainbow Bridge NM, Utah	72.7	0.8	73.5	56.1	1.0	57.1	–	–
Redwood NP, California	104.3	–	104.3	210.5	–	210.5	1.8	2.2
Richmond NBP, Virginia	494.9	107.1	602.1	405.6	82.8	488.4	1.4	0.9
Rocky Mountain NP, Colorado	2,513.4	6.2	2,519.6	2,507.6	14.3	2,522.0	281.1	301.4

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Russell Cave NM, Alabama	20.7	0.5	21.2	23.9	0.6	24.6	–	–
Sagamore Hill NHS, New York	165.2	1.2	166.4	172.2	1.2	173.5	–	–
Saguaro NM, Arizona	319.1	–	319.1	390.8	–	390.8	1.3	2.6
Saint Croix NSR, Minn.-Wisc.[1]	–	–	–	190.0	–	190.0	–	20.8
Saint-Gaudens NHS, New Hampshire	16.8	–	16.8	13.3	–	13.3	–	–
Salem Maritime NHS, Massachusetts	438.5	25.8	464.3	388.4	–	388.4	–	–
San Juan Island NHP, Washington	71.8	–	71.8	71.3	–	71.3	–	–
San Juan NHS, Puerto Rico	1,250.3	–	1,250.3	1,277.9	–	1,277.9	–	–
Saratoga NHP, New York	180.2	108.4	288.6	161.4	144.3	305.7	*	–
Saugus Iron Works NHS, Massachusetts	26.7	1.3	28.1	31.2	1.9	33.1	–	–
Scotts Bluff NM, Nebraska	140.3	*	140.3	157.0	–	157.0	–	–
Sequoia NP, California	867.1	2.5	869.6	845.5	0.8	846.3	221.1	235.8

Shadow Mountain NRA, Colorado	158.3	–	158.3	202.4	–	202.4	80.5	101.5
Shenandoah NP, Virginia	2,038.2	265.9	2,304.1	2,308.4	265.9	2,574.3	446.2	600.5
Shiloh NC, Tennessee	90.9	–	90.9	110.1	–	110.1	–	–
Shiloh NMP, Tennessee	459.0	235.7	694.7	442.2	91.4	533.6	13.8	12.5
Sitka NHP, Alaska[5]	36.6	1.5	38.1	46.1	2.1	48.2	–	–
Statue of Liberty NM, N.Y.-N.J.	1,090.0	1.1	1,091.1	1,125.3	0.6	1,125.9	–	–
Stones River NB, Tennessee	78.7	0.5	79.2	86.7	0.5	87.1	0.3	0.2
Stones River NC, Tennessee	69.0	0.4	69.4	36.2	0.5	36.7	–	–
Sunset Crater NM, Arizona	268.8	11.3	280.1	228.7	11.1	239.7	–	–
Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS, New York	8.3	4.2	12.4	11.3	4.0	15.3	–	–
Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural NHS, New York	30.6	1.8	32.4	26.0	1.9	27.9	–	–
Theodore Roosevelt Island, D.C.[3]	265.1	–	265.1	54.4	–	54.4	–	–
Theodore Roosevelt NMemP, North Dakota	998.8	3.1	1,002.0	849.7	3.1	852.8	39.6	41.0
Timpanogos Cave NM, Utah	194.5	–	194.5	174.6	–	174.6	–	–
Tonto NM, Arizona	52.4	–	52.4	61.3	–	61.3	–	–
Tumacacori NM, Arizona	68.4	–	68.4	78.2	–	78.2	–	–

INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS (in thousands)—Continued

AREA	VISITS						OVERNIGHT STAYS	
	CY 1972			CY 1973			CY 1972	CY 1973
	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total	Rec.	Non-Rec.	Total		
Tupelo NB, Mississippi	0.6	–	0.6	0.8	–	0.8	–	–
Tuzigoot NM, Arizona[3]	88.7	–	88.7	84.9	2.9	87.9	–	–
Vanderbilt Mansion NHS, New York	269.2	–	269.2	247.1	–	247.1	–	–
Vicksburg NC, Mississippi	143.8	–	143.8	115.8	–	115.8	–	–
Vicksburg NMP, Mississippi	390.3	235.2	625.5	550.5	263.8	814.2	–	–
Virgin Islands NP, Virgin Islands	148.6	132.9	281.6	150.1	143.5	293.6	110.6	92.9
Voyageurs NP, Minnesota[1]	–	–	–	0.8	–	0.8	–	0.8
Walnut Canyon NM, Arizona	71.4	0.5	71.9	64.3	0.5	64.8	–	–
Washington Monument, D.C.	1,613.5	–	1,613.5	1,446.5	–	1,446.5	–	–
Whiskeytown NRA, California	929.6	2.6	932.2	929.2	2.1	931.3	72.7	65.0
White House, District of Columbia	1,412.8	–	1,412.8	1,219.0	–	1,219.0	–	–
White Sands NM, New Mexico	579.5	6.9	586.3	654.8	8.5	663.2	2.6	1.0

Whitman Mission NHS, Washington	90.8	1.5	92.3	103.2	1.3	104.5	–	–
William Howard Taft NHS, Ohio[1]	0.6	*	0.6	3.2	0.2	3.4	–	–
Wilsons Creek NB, Missouri	38.7	–	38.7	33.9	–	33.9	–	–
Wind Cave NP, South Dakota	505.0	487.9	992.9	479.9	474.0	953.9	18.5	20.2
Wolf Trap Farm Park, Virginia	430.4	2.0	432.4	482.6	–	482.6	–	–
Wright Brothers NMem, North Carolina	423.7	0.1	423.9	413.6	0.1	413.8	–	–
Wupatki NM, Arizona	152.9	6.6	159.5	148.1	6.6	154.8	–	–
Yellowstone NP, Wyoming-Montana-Idaho	2,236.9	14.8	2,251.7	2,061.7	4.5	2,066.2	1,464.6	1,141.2
Yorktown NC, Virginia[3]	24.6	–	24.6	2.9	–	2.9	–	–
Yosemite NP, California	2,190.3	76.3	2,266.6	2,254.3	85.1	2,339.4	1,609.4	1,754.3
Zion NP, Utah	889.4	80.8	970.2	993.8	93.6	1,087.4	189.6	211.4

FOOTNOTES TO TABLE OF INDIVIDUAL PARK STATISTICS

– Indicates zero.

* Less than 50 visits or overnight stays.

[1]Full year totals are not entirely comparable because the following areas' first data series started with the months shown in parentheses: William Howard Taft NHS (August 1972), John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway (September 1972), Lincoln Home NHS (October 1972), Apostle Islands NL (January 1973), Florissant Fossil Beds NM (January 1973), Fort Union Trading Post NHS (January 1973), Gulf Islands NS (January 1973), Indiana Dunes NL (January 1973), Pictured Rocks NL (January 1973), St. Croix NSR (January 1973), Fossil Butte NM (July 1973), Voyageurs NP (July 1973), Buffalo NR (October 1973), Chamizal NMem (October 1973), Golden Gate NRA (November 1973).

[2]Data for North Cascades NP, Ross Lake NRA, and Lake Chelan NRA are shown combined; no breakdown is available.

[3]The 1973 figures on Visits for these areas are not strictly comparable to the 1972 figures, due to changes in the counting procedures.

[4]Area temporarily closed for renovation.

[5]Cowpens was legislatively changed from NBS to NB in April 1972; Sitka and Perry's Victory, from NM to NHP and NMem, respectively, in October 1972.

[6]Name Changes: Arlington House—The Robert E. Lee Memorial was formerly listed as Custis-Lee Mansion; Lake Meredith NRA was called Sanford NRA prior to October 16, 1972; the words "National Memorial" were legislatively added to the name Frederick Douglass Home in October 1972. Jefferson Memorial was previously listed as Thomas Jefferson Memorial. None of these changes affects the classifications as reflected in "Areas in the National Park System" on page 4.

[7]Revised total reflects correction of figure previously published in December 1972 report.

NOTES REGARDING DATA COLLECTION AND PRESENTATION

Public use data are collected in the field year-round on a continuous basis, except at a few parks which are closed for the winter. Excepted from the reporting requirement are those areas not in Federal ownership, a few parks where it is impractical to produce consistent or meaningful data, and a few new parks which are not yet open for public use. All data are as of the end of the year (fiscal or calendar) unless otherwise noted.

Note that certain areas which are administratively considered as parts of National Capital Parks are listed in their own right as units of the National Park System, and no data for them is included in that shown for National Capital Parks in this report. Those areas are:

Antietam NBS
Antietam NC
Arlington House - The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Baltimore-Washington Parkway
Battleground NC
Catoctin Mountain Park
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP
Ford's Theater NHS
Frederick Douglass Home NMem
George Washington Memorial Parkway
Harpers Ferry NHP
Jefferson Memorial
The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Lincoln Memorial
Manassas NBP
Pennsylvania Avenue NHS
Piscataway Park
Prince William Forest Park
Suitland Parkway
Theodore Roosevelt Island
Washington Monument
White House
Wolf Trap Farm Park

DEFINITIONS

As used in this report, certain terms have specialized definitions:

Visit - The entry of any person, except National Park Service personnel (meaning staff of cooperating associations, concessioners and contractors, as well as those directly employed by the Service, and the households of personnel resident in the parks), onto lands or waters administered by the National Park Service.

Visitor - A person who generates a visit as defined above. Though this same person may enter the same park a number of times, or several different parks over the course of the year, he is counted as a separate visit for each entry.

Visitor-Hour - The presence of one or more visitors in a park for continuous, intermittent, or simultaneous periods of time aggregating one hour (e.g., one person for one hour, two persons for one-half hour each, etc.)

Overnight Stay - The passing of one night by a visitor within a park (on park lands or waters, not on private inholdings within the park boundaries). An overnight stay occurs each night a visitor remains in the park.

Recreation - Any reportable use of National Park Service areas for the purpose of engaging in any activities except those which are a part of, or incidental to, the pursuit of a gainful occupation.

Nonrecreation - Any use other than recreation use as defined above.

Management Category - Basically, one of three categories of parks for which management policies have been promulgated by the National Park Service. These are "natural," "historical," and "recreational." Additionally, a new "cultural" category has been identified for two recent additions to the National Park System—Wolf Trap Farm Park and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. National Captial Parks is essentially an urban park system not statistically truly comparable with the individual parks of the National Park System.

Fiscal Year - Year running from July 1 to June 30, and designated by the calendar year in which it ends.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If more detailed information about visitation is needed, please contact the Statistical Unit, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

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